
The E-Gobrecht
Volume 2, Issue 3, March 2006
Whole Number 12

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Information, input, comments, or suggestions for improvements to this E-Gobrecht are actively solicited from anyone and may be sent to wb8cpy@arrl.net or by writing or calling:

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Acknowledgements and Miscellaneous Notes from the Editor

Many thanks to Jim Gray, Len Augsburg, Dennis Fortier, and the subscribers who corresponded with me.

Through the generosity of Gerry Fortin, the previous issues of the E-Gobrecht are readily accessible on his seated dime website at <http://www.seateddimevarieties.com/LSCC.htm>.

We are now up to 140 E-Gobrecht subscribers! Thanks to everyone for your interest and support.

Please consider submitting something for print. A simple email will suffice: everyone knows something for which others are interested. To quote Bill Luebke in the John Reich newsletter: "An interesting find, an unreported die state, your impressions of coin shows and auctions, a good cherry pick, an interesting anecdote, bizarre coins, news from other media, your collecting goals, neat coins from your collection, opinions regarding rarity and Condition Census, collector profiles, interesting (in both the good sense and the bad) eBay listings, questions, comments and snide remarks. Most anything will do."

Features in this issue

- ==> Review of the Frog Run Farm Collection by Jim Gray.
- ==> 1867 Half Dollar with “haywire die scratches” by Bill Bugert.
- ==> Tribute to John McCloskey’s literary works by Len Augsburger.
- ==> The Learning Curve by Dennis Fortier.
- ==> Recent email traffic.

Details

- ==> "Frog Run Farm Collection II" by James C. Gray

The American Numismatic Rarities Prescott sale of January, 2006 featured part II of the Frog Run Farm Collection of Seated coins. Part I, featuring dimes and halves, had been sold by ANR at their November/December, 2004 sale.

Like part I, the majority of the collection in part II was AU or finer and a large percentage of the coins had been cleaned, dipped, or damaged. Nonetheless, there were a number of choice pieces among the complete sets of half dimes and quarters that were presented. Many of the quarters had served as plate coins for Larry Brigg's reference on quarters.

The best half dime was a well struck, AU-53 1853-O no arrows that appeared finer than the stated grade. Lot 339 contained a perfectly struck, beautifully toned 1847-O quarter in MS-63. It was by far the finest 1847-O that I have ever seen and brought a strong \$18,400. It was followed by a nicely toned AU-58 1849-O that realized \$13,225. An AU 1851-O sold for \$6,900 while a dipped, weakly struck 1852-O in MS-63 sold for an impressive \$21,830. The 1860-S was a cleaned AU that sold for \$6,325 while the 1861-S was tied for the finest certified at AU-58. The coin was well struck, but had unattractive toning, yet still realized an impressive \$32,200. The AU-58 1864-S sold for \$10,350 while the nicely toned MS-62 1867-S realized \$25,300. Roy Ash had offered me the 1867-S for \$1,750 at an ANA in the mid 1980's. I thought that it was a little pricey so I passed. What was I thinking!

The 1870-CC was VF-20 and realized \$13,800 while a cleaned AU 1871-CC sold for \$27,600. The MS-62 1871-S sold for \$8,625 and the XF-40 1872-CC realized \$10,350. A beautifully toned, AU-58 1873 no arrows closed 3 sold for an amazing \$12,650. The cleaned, but attractive, AU 1873-CC arrows in lot 391 went for \$23,000.

Two very impressive Seated coins in the sale were not part of the Frog Run Farm Collection. Lot 275 contained an AU-55 1871-CC dime that was well struck and nicely toned. However, it did not sell. Lot 383 contained a lovely AU-55 1871-CC quarter, the finest circulated 1871-CC I have seen. It also did not sell and had not sold at a major auction some months before. Since both coins were certified by PCGS, it appears that the only reason that they did not sell is that they did not meet the reserve placed on them by the consignor. Any Seated collector would be proud to have either or both of these pieces in his collection. Does any reader have any further knowledge about these two coins?

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- ==> 1867 Half Dollar with “haywire die scratches” by Bill Bugert.

In our 1993 book, <i>The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dollars</i> , Randy Wiley and I briefly	
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discussed one of the varieties of the 1867 normal date half dollar (WB-101) that has very heavy random die lines throughout Liberty's gown, rock, and shield. Nicknamed "haywire die scratches", it also has some die rust lumps. Most likely, the die scratches occurred from attempts to remove the rust spots by polishing the die. No photo was represented in our book but here is one (see photo 1) for the interested readers. This variety has 150 reeds, one of the three reed counts for this date. I hope you find this neat variety in your collection or at the next coin show.



Photo 1. 1867 Half Dollar with obverse "haywire die scratches". Shown here are the heavy die scratches in Liberty's skirt area. Many others die scratches are plainly visible in the rock below the skirt, in the shield near the lower tip, and by the Liberty's gown to the right of the left arm. Large rust lumps are found on Liberty's left ribs.

==> Tribute to John McCloskey's literary works by Len Augsburger.

E-Gobrecht readers are no doubt familiar with the many contributions of Dr. John McCloskey to the LSCC and the Gobrecht Journal. Often overlooked or unknown by some Liberty Seated collectors, however, is McCloskey's research into other areas of U.S. numismatics.

First and foremost are the two standard references on early dimes and half dimes. *Federal Half Dimes, 1792-1837*, was co-authored by Russ Logan and John McCloskey in 1998, while *Early United States Dimes, 1796-1837* was co-authored by Logan, McCloskey, David Davis, Allen Lovejoy, and William Subjack in 1984. A related article on early half dimes, *United States Half Dimes, 1829-1837*, was included in the ANA Centennial Anthology in 1991.

John has also published on Classic Head gold, including *A Study of Classic Half Eagles, 1834-1838*, part of the ANS Coinage of Americas Conference Proceedings in 1990. Additional articles on classic quarter and half eagles have appeared in the John Reich Journal (9/1989, 1/1994, 7/1997, 1/2001).

Finally, John has been a frequent contributor to the John Reich Journal on the subject of bust dimes and quarters, with about ten articles noted in the index to the John Reich Journal, online at <http://www.jrcs.org/journalindex.html>.

==> The Learning Curve By Dennis Fortier, LSCC 2016.

I am a new Seated Liberty collector; in fact, I have not collected any coins for 30 years. Bill Bugert thought you could all take a trip down memory lane through my experiences as a new SL collector. It wasn't long after getting back into coin

collecting that I discovered Seated coinage. It was the beauty and detail of Christian Gobrecht's design that caught my eye. I chose SL halves for two reasons. First, this size was large enough to let the detail of the design really show and prices were more reasonable than dollars; secondly, the long period of low mintages from 1879 thru 1890 astounded me.

The first serious purchase I made was over the internet. I knew it was risky. I had already learned about over grading and counterfeits on EBAY by that time, but local dealers don't have the hard to find dates that attracted me. I believed I was dealing with a reputable outfit; now I'm not sure. I purchased an 1882 half advertised as AU-55. I showed it to a dealer in Providence, R.I. and he told me it was a Proof and not a business strike. It's a beautiful coin with lots of detail and a mirror like shine that I didn't know was an indication that it may be a proof. I now believe after close examination with better magnification, and Bill and Randy's book, that it is an 1882 PR-55 WB-102. Fortunately, I didn't pay to learn my lesson, the price was fair for the proof grade and condition.

When I was a young collector it was a very solitary hobby for me I didn't know about coin clubs. If I had, I may not have given up the hobby and lost all those years. I am now in two clubs, the LSCC and my local. Being a member of these two clubs has greatly enriched my coin collecting experience and knowledge. The people I've come into contact with at both clubs have been exceedingly generous with their time and knowledge. It's made me a more knowledgeable collector and I'm grateful to them all.

The learning curve is moving along. The first rule of coin collecting I'm told is "Buy the book before you buy the coin". I've got Bill and Randy's book now (thanks, Bill), the *Gobrecht Journal*, and the *E-Gobrecht* so I'm well armed in that respect. I've got a couple rules of my own to add. Rule 2: Join a club (or two). You will profit from the knowledge other collectors are willing to share and enjoy the fellowship as well. Rule 3: Expensive purchases should be "Certified" until you gain the necessary experience. Even local dealers (not only the internet) can over grade and cost you money.

I've been busy over the last few months adding to my small collection.
SL half dollar - 1888 ANACS EF-45 (Heritage Auctions)
SL half dollar - 1858 VG-10 (WB-109)
SL dime - 1890 AU-58 (gotta have some diversity!)

If any one cares to share a pearl of wisdom or a warning of who or what to avoid please contact me at ricajun@msn.com. I will be glad to hear from you.

My daughter Lindsay (age 12) has joined me in my rediscovered hobby. I've got her started on mercury dimes. I think she has the monkey on her back too; she said to me "Dad when you die can I have your coins?" That's my girl.

==> Email traffic. Here are some emails the Editor recently received:

Jason Feldman. Bill, I case you have not heard I am giving away vanity email address "yourname@seated.org" that will work with the users current email address. It will forward an email to the user's current address and if they use an email program like outlook, it can be used as the outgoing address as well. I am offering this to collectors at no charge but am limiting them to 1 per person. Feel free to pass this information on. (Thanks Jason for this generous offer; you can contact him at jasonfeldman@gmail.com. – Editor.)

Charles Sullivan. Hi Bill, I continue to enjoy *E-Gobrecht* immensely! It has the feel of a real coin "club," albeit virtual. On behalf of the other 136 subscribers, thank you for the time and effort you put into this project. I printed out the *E-Gobrecht* on a very high quality color printer. The photo of the 1856 half on Page 4 turned out BEAUTIFULLY. I have two suggestions: (a) continue inserting photos and scans and (b) alert readers to find a color printer. The mass media (*Coin World*, *Numismatic News*, etc.) can't touch this. Charles

Dave Perkins. Thanks. Good issue. I was at the Reiver sale for the early silver on Friday and Saturday, thus did not get to see the Seated issues. (*Later – Editor.*) I knew Jules pretty well / had been to his home a couple of times.

Eric Von Klinger of *Coin World*. The photo of the 1856 "sawtooth cud" half dollar is really neat. Would you consider sending a separate image for use on our "Clearinghouse" page? (*Editor's comment...This was included in the February 20, 2006 issue of Coin World – Thanks, Eric!*)

Vicken Yegparian of Stack's Rare Coins. Dear Bill, I thought readers of the *E-Gobrecht* would be interested to know about Stack's upcoming auctions that will include a ton of fresh Liberty Seated coinage. The Northern Bay Collection is a collection that has been off everyone's radar screens for 30 years and features Half Cents through Silver Dollars. Some of the coins have even been off the market for as many as 50 years!

Our March 7-9, 2006 auction includes the collection's Half Cents through Twenty Cents and our May 23-25, 2006 auction will showcase the collection's Quarters, Half Dollars and Dollars. The Northern Bay collector really liked Proofs, so there are a lot Liberty Seated Proofs, which are complete 1858-1891 for the Dimes, Quarters and Half Dollars and 1858-1873 for the Half Dimes and Dollars. If he couldn't get a Proof, he got a prooflike business strike whenever possible. There are even some pre-1858 Proofs among the Liberty Seated issues, and there are many among the Half Cents and Large Cents. Barber Proofs are complete among the Dimes, Quarters and Half Dollars. Subscribers to the *E-Gobrecht* will be excited to know that there are lots of early Liberty Seated Half Dimes and Liberty Seated Dimes in our March auction, including what are among the finest known 1840-O No Drapery, 1865-S, and 1866-S Dimes. Liberty Seated Quarters, Halves and Dollars will tantalize in our May sale...so watch out for an update! Also starting with our March auction will be selections of Liberty Seated (but especially Bust) Halves that came in a large, unattributed consignment. Grades in general range from VF to BU, and there are some scarce and rare varieties mixed in. These will be spread over a number of auctions, including both Stack's and Coin Galleries sales. Our March auction will be available at www.stacks.com. For those subscribers who don't get Stack's catalogues, they can drop me an email with their interests and I'll make sure that they receive the appropriate print catalogues. I can be reached at vickeny@stacks.com. Cheers, Vicken

Dennis Martin states: I was glad to get your response to my E-mail. It was my first attempt at registering my E-mail address with anyone. It's encouraging to know I did it successfully. I submit the following for the next *E-Gobrecht* distribution: I joined the LSCC in 2003, because I realized I had become hopelessly "hooked" on collecting Liberty Seated Halves. Also, I was convinced I had discovered several

dramatic new varieties that I couldn't wait to share with the numismatic community. Thank Goodness!! I hesitated sending in a couple of articles, about my discoveries to the *Gobrecht Journal*. I thought it prudent to do a little more research first. Then I learned to recognize "deteriorated die doubling. What I thought was a doubled reverse die 1854-O wasn't that at all. As my skill in recognizing "machine doubling" increased, my certainty that I possessed the only 1872-CC half with doubling on the reverse lettering (half dol.) began to fade into the reality that I was wrong again. Not to be undone, I KNEW that my 1850-O doubled obverse die was the real deal. Alas, I found where Dick Osburn had already identified this variety in the *Gobrecht Journal*. However, I am not discouraged, because I am having more fun collecting Liberty Seated Halves, than anything else I've collected in my lifetime. I've learned some expensive lessons along the way, but the knowledge I've gained is more than worth the cost of a few impulsive misjudgments. Furthermore, "if" the dealer whose half I passed up purchasing at the San Jose show in January is at the Santa Clara show in March, and "if" the coin has slipped under other collectors' radar, then I will be able to make my first contribution to this captivating area of numismatics in the near future.

Thank you, Dennis Martin, LSCC 1928.

Dick Osburn states in his price list emailing: I spent the last week in January at the Reiver sale in Dallas. What a collection! It was an education just to see the coins. Most of the rare coins and die states went for strong prices. I know from talking to a number of you that you were able to secure some nice rarities for your collections. But, with over 5,000 coins there were bound to be a lot of bargains and there were. I was able to buy nearly 150 new coins for inventory. I just completed listing them on the website (www.dickosburn.com) this morning. I hope you find something of interest. There are many other new coins out there also, most from new consignments, and a few from the Houston show two weeks ago. The Reiver sale continued a trend that I've seen in the other January auctions. Nice bust halves in the higher collector grades, nice XF through low end mint state, have moved to a new level. The days of buying nice AU's at even the retail price guide levels have gone. Common date coins in the AU55/58 grades are auctioning in the \$450-750 range. The key is eye appeal. If the coin is ugly, you might still get it for the *Coin World* price, but if it has outstanding eye appeal expect to pay a large premium. I have had to adjust my prices accordingly. I think you can expect to see major increases in the price references in the coming month.

Dick Osburn states in his price list emailing: Recent shows and auctions continue to support the contention that there's no cooling of the hot coin market. Prices and competition remain incredibly strong. I've been fortunate to pick up some nice coins at the shows, and I'm in the process of cataloguing a fantastic new consignment. Already on the web site (www.dickosburn.com) are near complete sets of bust, seated, and trade dollars, including a very pleasing 1794 bust dollar and a gorgeous AU50 1873-CC seated dollar. The consignment also includes complete sets of seated half dimes, bust dimes, and seated dimes, as well as a lot of other goodies. Those are yet to come, but will be appearing on the site over the next week. Today I catalogued and listed a set of seated quarters, missing only six of the keys. The set is low to mid-grade, up to XF40. Most are in the VG-VF range. Almost every coin is nicely toned and problem-free. A set that was painstakingly assembled over a period of many years.

If you are looking for some nice mid-grade coins, this is a great opportunity.

Calendar

- Seated Dime survey – Now in progress, census due March 15th
 - Next issue of the *Gobrecht Journal* – March 2006
 - LSCC Regional meeting – Central States Convention, April 28, 9:00
 - LSCC Annual meeting – 2006 ANA Convention, August 2006, TBD
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Information on the Liberty Seated Collectors Club

The LSCC Pledge. To encourage, promote, and dispense numismatic knowledge of the Liberty Seated coins; to cultivate fraternal relations among its members and all those interested in the science of numismatics.

LSCC Officers.

President: John McCloskey.
Vice-President: Larry Briggs.
Secretary/Treasurer: Mark Sheldon.

LSCC Membership Information. Dues are \$15 per year and include three issues of the *Gobrecht Journal*, an award winning numismatic publication. To join the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, for *Gobrecht Journal* mailing address changes, or for other membership questions, correspond with the LSCC Secretary Mark Sheldon at P.O. Box 261, Wellington, OH 44090.

Articles, comments, or advertisements for publication in the *Gobrecht Journal* may be addressed to the LSCC President:

John W. McCloskey
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